

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to engage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, said first and second arm portions defining a generally planar surface of said cage member, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion which extends outwardly from said planar surface, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said cage member configured to allow the nut member to be adjusted in at least one dimension relative to said base portion of said body of said cage member when the nut member is engaged by said cage member.

2. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is positioned proximate to said seam.

3. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said first arm portion and said second arm portion define said planar surface is a lower surface of said cage member which faces the mating surface, surface such that said at least one protrusion protruding extends outwardly from said lower surface of said cage member.

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4. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface; said at least one protrusion is a single protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.~~

5. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 4, wherein said seam extends between said adjacent segments of said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusion.

6. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein engagable with
~~a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage~~
~~member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture~~
~~formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut~~
~~member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a~~
~~base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam~~
~~defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm~~
~~portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable~~
~~to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being~~
~~provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is a pair of protrusions,~~
~~each said protrusion being segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of each said~~
~~protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween~~
~~and such that said adjacent segments of each said protrusion form a generally whole~~
~~protrusion, said adjacent segments of each said protrusion being weldable to the mating~~
~~surface and to one another along said seam.~~

7. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 6, wherein said seam extends between
said adjacent segments of each said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of each
said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusions.

8. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein engageable with
~~a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage~~
~~member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture~~
~~formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut~~
~~member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a~~
~~base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam~~
~~defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm~~
~~portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable~~
~~to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being~~
~~provided proximate to the mating surface, said at least one protrusion is formed as a dimple.~~

9. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion
is formed as a tab.

10-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, said first and second arm portions defining a generally planar surface of said cage member, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion which extends outwardly from said planar surface, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said nut member being adjustable in at least one dimension relative to said base portion of said body of said cage member when said nut member is encaged by said cage member.

22. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein
comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough, and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an
aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said
nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body
having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and
a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and
second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to
be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam
being provided proximate to the mating surface; said at least one protrusion is a single
protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single
protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween
and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion,
said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one
another along said seam.

23. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein
comprising:

~~a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and~~
~~a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an~~
~~aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said~~
~~nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member; said body~~
~~having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion; and~~
~~a seam defined between said first and second arm portions; at least one of said first and~~
~~second arm portions having at least one protrusion; said at least one protrusion configured to~~
~~be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface; said seam~~
~~being provided proximate to the mating surface; said at least one protrusion is a pair of~~
~~protrusions, each said protrusion being segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments~~
~~of each said protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided~~
~~therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of each said protrusion form a generally~~
~~whole protrusion; said adjacent segments of each said protrusion being weldable to the~~
~~mating surface and to one another along said seam.~~

24-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said body
includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in
order to encage the nut member within said body.

28. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member is further configured to be moved in a second direction, which is opposite said first direction, in order to allow for removal of the nut member from within said body.

29. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member is integrally formed with said body.

30. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said body includes two flange members.

31. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body.

32. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 31, wherein engageable with
~~a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage~~
~~member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture~~
~~formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut~~
~~member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a~~
~~base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, said body~~
~~includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in~~
~~order to encage the nut member within said body, said at least one flange member extends~~
~~from said base portion of said body, said at least one flange member is generally L-shaped~~
~~such that it has a first portion and a second portion which is generally angled from said first~~
~~portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said~~
~~first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion~~
~~configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating~~
~~surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.~~

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said body
includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in
order to encage said nut member within said body.

35. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange member is further configured to be moved in a second direction, which is opposite said first direction, in order to allow for removal of said nut member from within said body.

36. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange is integrally formed with said body.

37. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said body includes two flange members.

38. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body.

39. (Currently amended) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 38, wherein
comprising:

~~a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and~~

~~a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, said body includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in order to encage said nut member within said body, said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body, said at least one flange member is generally L-shaped such that it has a first portion and a second portion which is generally angled from said first portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.~~

40-42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently amended) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to engage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein, said aperture configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body defining a generally planar surface and a weldable seam and having at least one protrusion which extends outwardly from said planar surface, said protrusion configured to provide that said protrusion is weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said cage member configured to allow the nut member to be adjusted in at least one dimension relative to said body of said cage member when the nut member is engaged by said cage member.

44. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said cage member and the nut member are separately formed and non-integral.

45. (Previously presented) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said cage member and said nut member are separately formed and non-integral.

46. (Previously presented) A cage member as defined in claim 43, wherein said cage member and the nut member are separately formed and non-integral.

47. (New) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein, said aperture configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body defining a generally planar surface and a seam, and having at least one protrusion extending outwardly from said planar surface, said protrusion being formed in halves which abut against one another such that said seam is provided therebetween, said protrusion configured to provide that said protrusion is weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, and, substantially contemporaneously, said halves of said protrusion configured to provide that said halves are weldable to one another along said seam.

48. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 47, wherein said body defines three protrusions with one of said three protrusions being formed in halves which abut against one another.

49. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 48, wherein each of said protrusions are formed as dimples.

50. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 48, wherein each of said protrusions are formed as tabs.

51. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 47, wherein said body defines four protrusions with two of said four protrusions being formed in halves which abut against one another.

52. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 51, wherein each of said protrusions are formed as dimples.

53. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 47, wherein said body has a base portion configured to support the nut member and a pair of arms extending from opposite ends of said base portion which are configured to bend around the nut member to engage the nut member, said aperture of said body being provided through said base portion thereof, each said arm having a free end, each said arm having said halves of said at least one protrusion provided thereon which abut against one another to provide said seam therebetween, said arms defining said planar surface, said seam further being provided between said free ends of said arms.

54. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 53, wherein flange members extend from opposite ends of said base portion between said arms toward said seam, at least one of said flange members being bendable, said flange members configured to limit a range of movement of the nut member when the nut member is engaged within the cage member.

55. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 47, wherein said body has a plurality of sidewalls which are integrally formed, two of said sidewalls having free ends which abut against one another and which have said halves of said at least one protrusion extending therefrom along said free ends such that said seam is provided between said halves of said at least one protrusion and between said free ends of said two sidewalls.

56. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 55, wherein one of said sidewalls having a free end has a dove-tail pocket provided therein and wherein said other one of said sidewalls having a free-end has a dove-tail extension provided thereon which is capable of being positioned within said dove-tail pocket to interlock said two sidewalls together.

57. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 55, wherein two of said sidewalls have flaps extending therefrom having free ends thereon which abut against one another, each said flap having semicircular cutouts at said free ends thereof which are in communication with one another to form a circular cutout.

58. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 55, wherein a nut servicing window is provided proximate to one of said sidewalls and wherein a flange is provided which covers a portion of said window and which is bendable to allow access to the nut member when the nut member is engaged within said cage member.

59. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 55, wherein two of said sidewalls have foldable arms extending therefrom which are configured to fold around a lower surface of the nut member to support the nut member when the nut member is engaged within said cage member.

60. (New) A cage nut assembly comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein, said aperture configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body defining a generally planar surface and a seam and having at least one protrusion extending outwardly from said planar surface, said protrusion being formed in halves which abut against one another such that said seam is provided therebetween, said protrusion configured to provide that said protrusion is weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, and, substantially contemporaneously, said halves of said protrusion configured to provide that said halves are weldable to one another along said seam.

61. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 60, wherein said body of said cage member has a plurality of sidewalls which are integrally formed, two of said sidewalls having free ends which abut against one another to provide said seam therebetween, one of said protrusions being formed on an edge of one of said two sidewalls at said free end thereof such that said one protrusion overlaps onto an edge of said other of said two sidewalls at said free end thereof, said edges of said two sidewalls defining said planar surface.

62. (New) A method of attaching a cage member of a cage nut assembly to a mating surface, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing said cage member, said cage member having a body configured to allow access to a threaded aperture of a nut member when the nut member is generally encaged by said cage member, said body defining a generally planar surface and a seam and having at least one protrusion extending from said planar surface, said protrusion being formed in halves which abut against one another such that said seam is provided therebetween;
- b) positioning said protrusions of said cage member on the mating surface;
- c) welding said protrusion to the mating surface such that said halves of said protrusion are welded together along said seam.

63. (New) A method of attaching a cage nut assembly to a mating surface, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a nut member and a cage member, said cage member having a body defining a generally planar surface and a seam and at least one protrusion extending outwardly from said planar surface which is formed in halves along said seam;
- b) encaging said nut member within said cage member to form said cage nut assembly such that said nut member has a limited range of movement within said cage member in at least one direction;
- c) positioning said protrusion of said cage member on the mating surface;
- d) welding said protrusion to the mating surface such that said halves of said protrusion are welded together along said seam.

64. (New) A method of attaching a cage nut assembly to a mating surface, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a nut member and a cage member, said cage member having a body defining a generally planar surface and a seam and at least one protrusion extending outwardly from said planar surface which overlaps a portion of said cage member and provides said seam therebetween;
- b) encaging said nut member within said cage member to form said cage nut assembly such that said nut member has a limited range of movement within said cage member in at least one direction;
- c) positioning said protrusion of said cage member on the mating surface;
- d) welding said protrusion to the mating surface such that said overlapping protrusion is welded to said portion of said cage member along said seam.